



Transition Belper News – Early November 2012

Next Transition Meeting

Tue, 6 November, 19:30 – 21:30 at The Strutts Center, Derby Road, Belper. Topic for discussion, led by David George, is "[How do we make Belper more Sustainable and Resilient, developing an Energy Descent Action Plan.](#)" Please come along and have your say - this is an increasingly current and important topic which looks at how Belper could make "the transition from a high energy consumption town to a low energy one in response to the challenge of the impending peaking of world oil production." (Kinsale FEC).



Free Skillshare workshops and Training

Workshops are usually held on the third Saturday of the month. They are run on a voluntary basis and anyone can offer to run a workshop, to share a skill that will help us to become less dependent on oil and to reduce carbon emissions. They are fun and informal, and an opportunity to meet people from our neighbourhood. Past workshops have included: spinning wool, bike maintenance, energy saving, willow weaving, tool sharpening, bread making etc. There may be a small charge for some workshops, to cover the cost of materials.

- **Eco/Fun Skills Workshop with Julie Clare Marshall at St Johns Chapel Saturday November 17th 10am to 1pm**

Come along and discover how a few simple ingredients from your kitchen can turn into bio plastic, a rainbow, a volcano, and some really interesting gooey stuff ! Could the government save the environment by making bio plastic instead of clogging up our oceans with a plastic waste island the size of Wales? Come along and find out...and have a bit of fun along the way!

You will need to bring with you:

1 white plate (the bigger the better)

About half a pint of milk (semi skimmed)

1 packet of cornflour (supermarket or similar stockist)

1 empty plastic bottle

It is essential that you book onto a workshop as places are limited. To book call 01773 827485, leaving your name and contact details. To find further details of these and other workshops, visit the Transition Belper website at www.transitionbelper.org. We are very grateful to Belper Town Council for the free use of St. Johns Chapel.

- **Thermal Camera Training.**

Open to all members – anyone who can't make it be assured we'll run the training again next year. Room for a total of about 15 at a squeeze at the Cottage project. Please book with David but bear in mind both dates – this is a 2 part training.

o 13th November at 7:30 - Belper Cottage Project

o 20th November at 7:30 - Crich Lane

Bulb Planting at the Train Station



Please come and join us on Sunday 4th November from 10:30 and help make Belper an even more beautiful place. We need help to plant spring flowering bulbs, so bring your trowels and enthusiasm along.

Community day at Belper Train station Wednesday 14th November



The Community Day will bring together station adoption volunteers from Transition Belper, members of other local community groups and staff from East Midlands Trains. The main focus of the day will be the planting of shrubs and small trees which will be a mixture of attractive native and other wildlife friendly species that will be beneficial to wildlife, as well as creating a colourful station environment throughout the year. Additionally some pruning, weeding and transplanting will be carried out along with other small scale improvement and maintenance work to station facilities.

Transition Belper have 'adopted' the station and are working to create a more attractive and wildlife friendly station environment. During the summer, our volunteers have been working with offenders from Derbyshire Probation Trust's Community Payback Scheme clearing overgrown vegetation. This project has been an integral part of Belper

in Bloom's success at Britain In Bloom 2012 at which Belper received a Gold accolade and were awarded the 'Best Large Town' in the British Isles. The community planting day will build on this great success.

The day will start at 1000 and end at 1500, but you are welcome to come just for part of the day. Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Please bring old/work clothes, waterproofs and sturdy footwear. If you would like to join us at this Community Day, please email Kathy or ring her on 07779412702. We need to know numbers for the catering.



Discovery Days



The Discovery Days activities in which Transition Belper were involved were a great success, with over 200 visitors to the 4 Hydro openings. There was a lot of interest in the idea of community owned hydro. A big thank you to Derwent Hydro and Gethyn Davies at Derby City Council for allowing the access to their sites.

Amber Valley Borough Council's consultation on its "Preferred Growth Strategy"

Amber Valley Borough Council is currently consulting on its "Preferred Growth Strategy". This is a document which sets out how much housing development will be planned for in Amber Valley Borough over the next 20 years, and where the major areas for development should be. It is a key part of the planning strategy for the Borough. Members of Belper Civic Forum and guests from Transition Belper discussed the document at a meeting on 25 October at the Strutts Centre.

None of the major development sites proposed are in Belper, but Belper people should not assume that this means the document does not concern them. One of the sites is very close: at Cinderhill. Around 1500 houses are planned here, which would make the development about a quarter of the size of Belper itself. What impact will such a large development have on Belper? Will it have its own shopping centre, competing with Belper town centre; or will it bring with it transport improvements so that the new residents can take advantage of all that Belper has to offer?

Not all of the planned development will take place on the major sites identified. The document also assumes that brownfield sites will continue to be redeveloped for housing at the same rate that they have in the recent past. Many of these sites have been in Belper, including Debs, Silkolene, Jaeger and Milford Foundry. Is it right that jobs should continue to be relocated out of Belper, and is there a risk that this strategy is turning Belper into a dormitory commuter town? The Civic Forum believes that Belper should be a vibrant market town with a strong, independent local economy, and should be a good place to work and shop as well as reside. We urge all Belper people to have a look at this document, and make your views known. The Borough Council's consultation is open until 21 December. For details, see <http://www.ambervalley.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/community-planning/community-planning-latest-news.aspx>

Social activities

Monthly walk



Our first monthly guided walk will be on Saturday 10th November. Meet us by the bandstand in the Rivergardens at 1:30 for an easy guided walk. If you'd like to guide a local (and not too strenuous) walk, please email [Kathy](mailto:kathy@rivergardens.org)

Green Drinks



The next social event is the Green Drinks at The Black Bulls Head, 2 Kilburn Lane, Openwoodgate DE56 0SF from 7.30 on Wednesday 21st November. The pub has been under new management since February and is enjoying a growing reputation for the quality and range of beer available. Come and join us for a drink and a chat.

Belper Christmas Food Festival Sunday, 2nd December 2012

Following the success of last year's inaugural Christmas Food Festival the Town Council are organising another event this year.



Transition Belper Christmas Social



Tue, 18 December, 19:30 – 23:00 at The Queen's Head, Chesterfield Road, Belper.

There'll be a small cost - probably around £2 or £3.

Come and join us for the annual Christmas party. We're looking at having some entertainment - folk songs inspired by Belper. There will be a Christmas fuddle too, organised by Barbara, who writes: "On the night please bring and share a dish with a Christmas Connection for the buffet, whether it be sweet, savoury, a salad or nibbles...Whenever I have been part of a Derbyshire Fuddle the mix of dishes has always worked well. If possible, please also bring your own crockery and cutlery so as to reduce waste." Please email [Barbara](#) with any questions or queries.

Belper Calendars

We have a number of the delightful 2012 Belper Calendars for Sale, which would make excellent Christmas presents. If you would like to buy one (or a few) please come to the November meeting or email [Ian](#)

Other Local News



Green fingered residents in Amber Valley can look forward to their garden waste being collected for free by the Borough Council from April next year. For further information and to order your green waste bin, go to <http://www.ambervalley.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-news/press-releases-2012/calling-all-gardeners!.aspx>

Don't Waste Your Chance Residents Survey

In February 2012, the Council conducted a major online survey of households in Amber Valley to ask them about how the future of their waste and recycling service should look. More than 1200 people responded in what was the biggest response to any survey the Council has ever done. To see the results go to: [Residents Survey](#)

Other Local Events

The following are a list of events we have been asked to publicise.

Please note: whilst we are happy to publicise other not-for-profit community organisations' events, this does not necessarily mean that we promote, support or approve them, nor does it mean that we are involved in their organisation.



Compassionate Derby is a showcase of healthy, environmentally friendly and cruelty-free food and lifestyle products, on Saturday 24th November - free to get in. As well as all the delicious food on offer, there will be a range of ethical organisations and charities there, and a series of talks throughout the day, so there'll be plenty opportunity to learn, discuss and explore some new ideas in a friendly and welcoming environment.



POTATO DAY 2013: January 26th, in The Pavements (we hope). We are now taking orders for our next potato day, offering 41 varieties of potato, plus onions, shallots and garlic - you can download the order form [here](#). However, we have been warned by our suppliers that their harvest is quite poor, and to expect fairly substantial price rises - this will be the same for all sources, and we still expect our prices to be very competitive. For potatoes our pre-order price will be 12p per tuber - remember you can buy as few or as many as you like - and we hope to sell them at 14p per tuber on the day itself, although this might rise, depending on the final price we have to pay. For more details, email: food@transitionchesterfield.org.uk

Transition Belper Facebook Group

Keep up-to-date with the latest developments and join any discussions on Facebook. [Join us here](#)

Belper's fruit and veg grower's forum

There is a Facebook Group locally for exchanging tips and ideas for your garden and anything to do with growing fruit and veg. [Join the Forum here](#)

Contact

The trustees of Transition Belper are:

Chair - [Ian Jackson](#)

Secretary - [Richard Keighley](#)

Treasurer – Adrian Rochford

Trustee and Core Group - Craig Scott

Trustee, Core Group and Energy Group leader- [David George](#)

Trustee, Core Group, Newsletter Editor and Community Gardens organiser - [Kathy Fairweather](#)

Trustee and Membership Secretary - Mick Hepworth

Trustee and Core Group - Julie Marshall

Or you can contact us via the Transition Belper email address: info@transitionbelper.org